

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-02 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01

INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-05 STR-04 TRSE-00 FEA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7642

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 0991

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, NL

SUBJ: BIGGER PIECE OF COAL IN DUTCH ENERGY CAKE

1. SUMMARY: EARLY THIS MONTH DUTCH SECOND CHAMBER DISCUSSED GOVERNMENTS ENERGY NOTE REFLECTING GON ENERGY POLICY AND LONGTERM ENERGY PLANNING. NOTE, FIRST PRESENTED TO CHAMBER IN 1974, FOCUSED ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES AND PROJECTED CONSTRUCTION OF THREE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS OF 1000 MW EACH TO BE OPERATIONAL IN 1985. SINCE MUCH OF NUCLEAR ENERGY DEBATE TOOK PLACE IN 1975, CULMINATING IN RECENT CAB-

INET POSTPONEMENT OF FINAL DECISION ON CONSTRUCTION OF THREE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS UNTIL AFTER 1977 ELECTIONS, CHAMBERS ENERGY DEBATE CONCENTRATED ON ROLE OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES IN DUTCH ENERGY SUPPLY IN GENERAL AND THAT OF COAL IN PARTICULAR. END SUMMARY.

2. MAJORITY OF CHAMBER CALLED FOR GOVERNMENT STEPS TO INCREASE

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HSARE OF COAL IN DUTCH ENERGY SUPPLY. RECOMMENDATIONS WERE MADE FOR REVISION OF GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES OF 1985 SHARE OF COAL IN TOTAL

FUEL PACKAGE FROM 10 PERCENT UP TO 15 PERCENT, WHILE CHAMBER ALSO CALLED FOR A STUDY FOCUSING ON POSSIBILITIES OF NEW COAL TECHNOLOGIES, E.G. COAL GASIFICATION. CHAMBERS PLEA TIES IN WITH PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS AROUND RECENT REPORTS BY LARGEST DUTCH COAL IMPORTER, STEENKOOK EN SCHEEPVAART, OF INCREASED INTEREST IN COAL SHOWN BY DUTCH ELECTRICITY PRODUCERS AND PRESENTATION TO ECONOMIC MINISTRY OF A COAL REPORT BY SAME SOURCE IN DEFENSE OF SOLID FUEL. ACCORDING TO ECON MIN LUBBERS, INTRODUCTION OF NEW COAL TECHNOLOGIES CANNOT BE REALIZED IN THE SHORT TERM, AND HENCE SUGGESTED INCREASE OF 1985 COAL SHARE TO 15 PERCENT OF TOTAL ENERGY NEEDS WOULD BE UNREALISTIC. CHAMBER WAS ALSO TOLD THAT SUGGESTED REOPENING OF DUTCH COAL MINES IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY FROM A SOCIAL AND TECHNICAL POINT OF VIEW. EFFORTS SHOULD THEREFORE CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING COAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS BY MEANS OF WHICH CHEAP IMPORTED COAL COULD BE TRANSPORTED IN BULK TO DUTCH TRANSIT HARBORS.

3. WITH REGARD TO ENERGY NOTES NUCLEAR ENERGY CHAPTER, MAACRITY OF CHAMBER WELCOMED CABINET DECISION EARLIER THIS YEAR TO DEFER A FINAL DECISION ON CONSTRUCTION OF THREE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS UNTIL AFTER 1977 ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO ASSOCIATION OF DUTCH ELECTRICITY PRODUCER (SEP), ELECTRICITY NEEDS IN 1985 WILL BE 88 BILLION KILOWATT HOURS INSTEAD OF 97 BILLION KILOWATT HOURS PREVIOUSLY FORECAST. AS A CONSEQUENCE, CAPACITY TO BE INSTALLED BY 1985 IS NOW ESTIMATED AT 20,000 MW (AGAINST EARLIER 22,000 MW), OR AN INCREASE OF 6,000 MW OVER PRESENT CAPACITY OF 14,000 MW. AS 4,000 MW HAS ALREADY BEEN INSTALLED OR ORDERED, NEW SEP ESTIMATES MIGHT POSTPONE OPERATIONAL DATE OF THREE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. FINALLY ECONOMICS MINISTER LUBBERS INFORMED CHAMBER OF GOVERNMENT'S PLANS TO DISCONTINUE DUTCH PARTICIPATION IN JOINT GERMAN-BENELUX FAST BREEDER, SNR-300 PROJECT, MAIN REASON BEING GERMAN PLANS TO INTEGRATE

9-300 INTO COUNTRY'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM. GOVERNMENT IS THEREFORE TRYING TO BACK OUT OF PROJECT WITH MINIMUM LOSS OF KNOW-HOW AND FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES.  
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